



Fair Political Practices Commission

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www.fppc.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Karlan brings extensive political, legal expertise to FPPC

Stanford law professor is prominent litigator, author, commentator

Pamela Karlan, appointed to the Fair Political Practices Commission by Controller Steve Westly last month, was sworn in last week at Stanford University, where she is the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law. She will attend her first meeting next **Friday, May 9** – the first commission meeting in more than a year when the FPPC will have its full complement of five members.

“Pam Karlan brings an extraordinary range of experience to the commission,” said Chairman Liane Randolph. “Her knowledge of constitutional law and election issues will be a tremendous asset to the FPPC.”

Randolph, who was city attorney for the City of San Leandro and is a former staff counsel for the FPPC, was appointed to the only full-time, salaried position on the commission by Gov. Gray Davis March 25. She was sworn in by FPPC Executive Director Mark Krausse April 10, and will conduct her first meeting as chair May 9 (see March 27 FPPC news release on Randolph’s appointment – go to “Press Center” on the agency Web site at www.fppc.ca.gov).

The agenda for the May 9 meeting – **which begins at 9:30 a.m. in the eighth-floor hearing room of FPPC headquarters at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento** – is also posted on the Web site.

A nationally recognized authority on constitutional law, Karlan argued and won two voting rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and was involved as an advocate and/or friend of the court in nearly two dozen other Supreme Court cases. Her published writing spans dozens of articles and books on voting rights, campaign finance reform, civil rights and discrimination, affirmative action and abortion rights, including: *The Hydraulics of Campaign Finance Reform*; *Equal Protection: Bush v. Gore and the Making of a Precedent*; *Race, Rights and Remedies in Criminal Adjudication*, and *Exit Strategies in Constitutional Law: Lessons for Getting the Least Dangerous Branch Out of the Political Thicket*.

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In addition to teaching public interest law at Stanford, Karlan has taught at the University of Virginia School of Law, been a visiting professor at Yale, Harvard and New York University and a visiting lecturer at the National Academy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She was a law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun and has extensive *pro bono* experience, including work with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. A graduate of Yale Law School, where she was an editor of the *Law Journal*, she also holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in history from Yale University.

For additional information on Karlan, go to the Stanford University Web site at www.law.stanford.edu/faculty. The Stanford site includes articles by and about Karlan, as well as her PBS interviews and commentaries. One of four part-time FPPC commissioners, she was sworn in by Krausse last Friday (April 25) at Stanford.

The five-member bipartisan commission was created by the Political Reform Act of 1974 to regulate campaign finance and the personal financial interests of public officials. Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms by the governor (who makes two appointments, including the chair), the controller, the secretary of state and the attorney general. They meet monthly and head a 75-person agency based in Sacramento.

Other part-time commissioners are Sacramento attorney Thomas Knox, appointed in 2001 by then-Secretary of State Bill Jones; Sheridan Downey, a former bankruptcy attorney and law professor, appointed in 2001 by Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and former Rolling Hills Mayor Gordana Swanson, appointed in 1999 by Gov. Gray Davis. Brief biographies of the commissioners are also on the Web site (go to "Commission" on the left side of the home page).

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